

Charter Schools Review Board

# Great Schools North Carolina

June 9, 2025



**Great Schools NC**

## Our Mission

The mission of Great Schools North Carolina (GSNC) is to bring scale and quality to the charter sector by investing in forward-thinking education leaders.

## Our Vision

Every family in North Carolina, regardless of location or background, can choose a great public school for their child.



A woman with curly hair, wearing a grey t-shirt and jeans, is walking away from the camera, holding the hand of a young child. The child is wearing a colorful backpack with cartoon characters. They are walking on a paved area, possibly a school bus route. In the background, there is a large, multi-story school building with a sign that reads "MANCHESTER ELEM. SCHOOL". A yellow school bus is parked on the right side of the frame. A dark blue SUV is parked on the left side of the frame. The text "We are committed to serving both new and existing public charter schools to help each be the best it can be." is overlaid on the image. The word "committed" is circled in green. The phrases "both new and existing" and "public charter" are underlined in orange.

We are committed to  
serving both new and  
existing public charter  
schools to help each be the  
best it can be.



# Great Schools NC launched in 2024

- Serve public charter schools statewide as a nonprofit grantmaking organization
- Partner with OCS, the Association, and the Coalition
- Invest in leaders through strategic funding and collaborative partnership
- Improve and grow the number of high-quality public charter school options available to students furthest from opportunity



# Our Approach to Supporting Leaders

- ✓ **Significant grant opportunities** for proven leaders across the state to serve more students and improve outcomes for all students
- ✓ **Capacity-building programming and targeted support** to strengthen academics, operations, & more
- ✓ **Community of practice** that allows leaders to learn from each other



# Our School Partners



School Quality  
Cohort



Startup Grant





# Grant Opportunities



# School Quality Cohort

*Expertise and resources for leaders to make the leap from “good to great” through cohort-based learning and coaching & partnerships*

## program

- For leaders of existing charter schools looking to improve student outcomes
- 18-month award with programming starting Jan. 2026

## grant information

- \$150,000 in direct funding
- Up to 6 schools per cohort

**Application for our 2<sup>nd</sup> cohort opens this August 2025!**





# Startup Grant

*Startup funding for leaders launching a new public charter school in Fall 2026 or Fall 2027*

## program

- For proposed new schools with preliminary approval from CSRB
- Two-year award
- Support through the Ready to Open process and Year 1

## grant information

- \$250,000 in direct funding over two years
- Up to 2 schools per year

**Application will reopen in January 2026**





# Founder's Fellowship

*Multi-year grant opportunity open to proven education leaders looking to make an impact in North Carolina*

## program

- For leaders seeking to design & launch a new charter school
- Multi-year award
- Support from school design through charter application process

## grant information

- \$50,000 in initial resources to prepare charter application & budget
- Opportunity for future grant dollars
- 1-2 Fellows per year

**Rolling application via interest form on our website**





Thank you!

# Contact Information



**Madeline Hannigan**

**Executive Director, Great Schools NC**

[mhannigan@greatschoolsnc.org](mailto:mhannigan@greatschoolsnc.org)

[greatschoolsnc.org](https://greatschoolsnc.org)

